

General Election 2015: An Energy Bill of Rights

In 2014 Fuel Poverty Action launched the Energy Bill of Rights, which set out 8 principles for a clean and affordable energy system. These included the right to; affordable energy to meet our basic needs; energy that does not harm us, the environment or the climate; not to be cut off from our energy supply; not to be forced onto a prepayment meter; energy that is owned by us and run in our interests and the right to properly insulated, well repaired housing that does not waste energy.

How can I engage with local candidates during the election?

At election time, politicians often make grand promises they have no intention of keeping. We can't believe what they say - but questioning them can let them know there are things we are not prepared to tolerate - now, or after the election. Fuel poverty is one of those things! There are a number of different ways you can make your voice heard during election time. You could:

- attend your local hustings and ask a question,
- ask a question when they are canvassing in your local area,
- write a letter to your local paper,
- write a letter or email to your local candidates.

Local hustings are one of the easiest ways to challenge your candidates and keep them on their toes. Please turn over for a suggested question about what they intend to do about supporting and implementing the Energy Bill of Rights, and for some extra background information in case you want to challenge their reply. If it's convenient, it can be good to gather some information about your local area or you might want to mention your own situation or a friend's!

QUESTION:

Given that there is well- founded popular mistrust and dislike of the Big Six energy companies, would you support Fuel Poverty Actions' 8- point Energy Bill of Rights which asserts everyone's right to a clean, affordable, publicly owned energy system, which doesn't force people on to prepayments or threaten communities through unwanted fracking projects?

- More than [81 MPs](#) have signed Early Day Motion 395 in support of the Energy Bill of Rights.
- More than [40 community and campaign](#) groups have backed the Energy Bill of Rights- from food banks to pensioner groups; renters groups to national campaign organisations like Global Justice Now (formally World Development Movement).
- Polls by the Department for Energy and Climate Change consistently show that renewable is the most popular form of energy (with three-quarters of people supporting it) and fracking the least popular (less than a quarter of people support it)- demonstrating there is big support for renewable energy and very little support for fracking.



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